

Tuesday is bus safety day

Schools focus efforts at individual ages and encourage students to 'Take 5'

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe has designated Tuesday as Spring 1997 Bus Safety Day. A special awareness program for all students has been built around the theme, "Take 5 for Bus Safety."

Spring 1997 Bus Safety Day is a joint effort sponsored by Dr. John E. Davis, DODDS European area superintendent, in partnership with Terry R. Fuglsang, DODDS European transportation management office chief.

In announcing the day, Davis noted that studies show student passengers are especially vulnerable to accidents and injuries as they return to school following the spring recess period. He said the goal for the day is to refocus the attention of all students on school bus safety.

"Take 5 for Bus Safety" has a dual meaning. Time is being set aside – "Take 5" – from the regular schedule of instruction and activities for students to think about bus safety. Davis said that students can get to and from school safely, but to do so they have to keep their minds alert and actively pay attention to and follow steps that will protect them.

The second meaning of the theme for the day is "Take 5" basic safety rules and apply them. Fuglsang noted that DETMO has "boiled down" the rules for riding the bus into five core steps. He stressed that experience shows that when students consciously and fully use the basic "5," most accidents and injuries are avoided.

DETMO's "Take 5 for Bus Safety" rules are boxed below.

The program for the day is tailored to the needs and capabilities of students. Kindergarten through grade four students (those aged 5 to 9) will see a new safety training video. It

is an award-winning bus safety film produced by the National PTA. Fuglsang described it as a "big hit" and said that National PTA authorized DETMO to adapt it for use in the DODDS European system. He said it is especially effective in teaching bus safety to K4 students who, as a group, "are the most vulnerable to accidents and need the most help."

For middle- and high school-level students (grades 5-8 and 9-12), DETMO has developed book marks that feature the "Take 5 for Bus Safety" rules. The book marks will be used to reinforce bus safety training given to middle and upper level students.

At RAF Lakenheath, the DODDS district transportation office staff will pass out activity sheets with pictures and games for students to color and play to help raise awareness, according to Gary Carter, United Kingdom DODDS district transportation supervisor.

"We work with the children on a regular

basis to ensure they are aware of school bus safety rules," said Carter. "It's also important that parents are aware of potential problems and their responsibilities.

"Parents need to take their children to and from bus stops. It's ultimately their responsibility to ensure their children get on and off the bus safely."

Davis said that Bus Safety Day reflects the commitment of all in DODDS Europe to "do all that we can to make riding the bus a safe process for our students."

The day is a major undertaking and involves presenting the program to more than 50,000 students at 129 schools in 10 countries from Iceland to Spain and from the Azores to Bahrain. He said the day is a team effort by teachers, principals, and DETMO school bus office personnel to instill the five basic rules in the mind of each student.

"If we can prevent even one accident," he added, "we will have reached the day's goal." (Story compiled from local and USAFE News Service sources)

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***Gary Carter
United Kingdom DODDS
district transportation supervisor***

"Take 5 for Bus Safety"

1. Be on time – walk, don't run to bus stop.
2. Wait for the bus three steps back from the curb.
3. Take your seat on the bus and stay in it.
4. Get off the bus, take three steps away, and wait for the bus to leave.
5. Never go in front of or behind the bus.

48th Fighter Wing receives AF Outstanding Unit Award

The 48th Fighter Wing earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Members assigned to the wing at any point from July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1996 are authorized to wear the award.

Oelstrom to get third star, command of AF Academy

RAFMILDENHALL, United Kingdom – Major Gen. Tad J. Oelstrom, 3rd Air Force commander, has been nominated by the president for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and reassignment to become the superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced the news Friday at the Pentagon. The nominations will go before the U.S. Senate for approval.

If approved, Oelstrom will replace Lt. Gen. Paul Stein, who retires in September.

"General Oelstrom is an exceptional choice to be the 14th Superintendent," said Stein. "He will bring a wealth of command, staff and aviation experience to the academy."

Oelstrom has served as 3rd Air Force commander since July 1995. During that time, 3rd Air Force has grown significantly, taking on responsibility for all U.S. Air Force bases, people and operations north of the Alps and across sub-Saharan Africa.

Oelstrom is a 1965 graduate of the Air Force Academy. A command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, including 240 combat missions, he has previously commanded three wings and a squadron. He and wife Sandra have three daughters.

Named to replace Oelstrom as 3rd Air Force Commander is Maj. Gen. William S. Hinton Jr., who is currently the deputy commander of the 6th Allied Tactical Air Force, Izmir, Turkey. He is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours and 297 combat missions.

His command experience includes the 58th Tactical Fighter Wing, an F-16 unit at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and the 366th Wing, a composite wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

